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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, CAPT Wilbur C. Douglass III, who is the Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Please join me in prayer.

Holy and Merciful God, Lord of all Creation, hear this our prayer that emanates from the collective hearts assembled here today. Envelop and bless this gathering of Your chosen servants as they now prepare to face the arduous challenges of this day. In the silence of these brief solemn moments cause each of them to fully know that You have placed Your guiding hand upon them, protecting them both individually and as one united body.

Lord God, as You give guidance to these audacious men and women here today, enable them to clearly and distinctively hear the guidance of Your loving voice well above the confusion and chaos of a world conflicted in turmoil.

Bless, guide, encourage, and protect the courageous men and women of our Armed Forces, our Congress, our President, and, especially, our beloved United States of America. Hear us, as we pray together in Your gracious and powerful name and say in one voice . . . Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 9, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNETT thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for the next hour and a half, until 11:30 a.m., with the first 30 minutes equally divided between Senator HUTCHISON and the minority leader or their designees. This time is dedicated to the men and women fighting in Iraq. The remaining time until 11:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. During the Republican-controlled time, Senator DOLE will be recognized for up to 15 minutes and Senator KYL will be recognized for up to 15 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the CARE Act. When the Senate returns to consideration of the bill, Senator NICKLES will offer his amendment related to

land sales. The Senate will vote on both the Nickles amendment and final passage of the CARE Act at approximately 12:30 p.m. today.

Following passage of the CARE Act, the Senate may resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen. In addition to the Owen nomination, the Senate may consider the PROTECT Act conference report, if available, as well as a POW resolution. Additional votes are, therefore, expected.

### SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as we have been doing over the last several weeks, we are devoting a few moments each morning to pay respect to the tremendous work our troops are doing overseas. Evidence continues to build that American and coalition forces are advancing, that they will prevail in this war.

Coalition aircraft destroyed a complex believed to be the site of an Iraqi leadership meeting.

Coalition forces are conducting operations at will throughout Baghdad, and British forces now control most of Iraq's second largest city.

The threat of Chemical Ali, the Iraqi general responsible for the atrocious chemical attacks on the Kurds in the 1980s, has reportedly been eliminated.

We have captured more than 7,000 Iraqi prisoners of war.

Of the more than 800 tanks in the Iraqi Army when this conflict began, all but a few, a couple dozen, have been destroyed or abandoned.

Coalition forces continue to generate good will among the Iraqi people, as we saw on the television early this morning, by delivering humanitarian supplies the country so desperately needs.

I applaud a very special group of people in Iraq, and that is the medical workers, the medical personnel, the troops who are responsible for delivering care, both in Iraq and the surrounding region. They are providing

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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